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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 3 Aug 50

SUBJECT Steel Factory at Hronec

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1. The steel factory at Hronec (Q49/D06), which is now being reconstructed, is managed from Podbrezova. The old foundry with a capacity of 2,400 metric tons per year is being replaced by a new foundry with a 10,000-ton capacity. Approximately half of the equipment at the plant will be used, while the remainder will be completely new. About 35 percent of the new machinery has been ordered from Switzerland. Especially needed are vibrators for forming castings, sanding machines for the cleaning of castings, and conveyor belts. The former production of such things as enamelled goods, stoves, and agricultural machinery has been discontinued. When the new foundry is completed, these will be replaced by the production of castings to be used in the woodworking (drevobrabeci) machines produced in Piesok (P49/T02), cast iron pipes of various kinds, grates, castings for agricultural machinery, forms for ingots, steel castings, and parts for cranes and dredging machines produced at Brezno (Q49/D16).
 2. Construction of a new steel structure to house the new foundry is well under way, and one part is already covered by a roof. It is expected that this construction will be completed by 1951.
 3. From a military point of view, this plant, which employs approximately 800 workers, is important principally as a foundry and possibly for its ability to produce the cast steel parts of tank treads. On the other hand, because of the size of the new foundry (10,000 square meters), and because there will be a surplus of foundries in Slovakia, this plant could be adapted to more important production.

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